

Amendments to the Specification

In compliance with revised 37 CFR 1.121, the changes in the replacement paragraphs are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 9-12 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

A1
"Information Gathering Facility Employing Dictionary File Containing Inquiry Invoking An External Process," by Douglas G. Murray, (~~Docket No. EN999112~~), Serial No: , ~~co filed herewith~~, now U.S. Patent No. 6,427,144 B1, issued July 30, 2002.

Replace the paragraph at page 7, beginning at line 23 and extending to page 8, line 8 of the specification with:

A2
FIG. 1 depicts one embodiment of a computer network, generally denoted 10, which includes multiple computing systems such as client workstations ~~42~~ 12a, 12b, 12c coupled to a server 14. As shown, server 14 functions as an information repository in accordance with the principles of the present invention. Each client workstation ~~42~~ 12a, 12b, 12c includes an inquiry tool ~~46~~ 16a, 16b, 16c and in this example a copy 18a, 18b, 18c of the dictionary file 18 read from information repository 14. Inquiry tool ~~46~~ 16a, 16b, 16c includes the control file which tells, for example, the respective client ~~42~~ 12a, 12b, 12c when to update its corresponding state information, where to go to obtain the dictionary file and where to return the state information 20. The inquiry tool is an application that is installed on a workstation that is used to gather information from the workstation. Once operational, the tool will gather the information when executed by the end user or optionally on a periodic schedule. Installation of this tool could be done at any time, but is typically done prior to a user receiving the workstation for use.

Replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 9-21 of the specification with:

A3
In this embodiment, the returned information 20 is stored at database 20 of information repository 14 of network 10. Preferably, the dictionary file copy at client ~~42~~ 12a

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A3
12b, 12c is updated each time inquiry tool 46 16a, 16b, 16c initiates processing to update the client state information. Note that as used herein the "state of the computer system" and "state information" refer to, for example, whether a program or file exists on the client, the version or level of the program or file, or to a variable or value from an application residing on the client or resulting from execution of an external process by the client as described in greater detail in the above-incorporated, co-filed application.

Replace the paragraph at page 14, lines 7-11 of the specification with:

A4
IPConfig obtains TCP/IP information from the system by executing the WINIPCFG command on Windows WINDOWS 95 Operating System or the IPCONFIG command on Windows WINDOWS NT Operating System. Use the IPConfig option to run these utilities and extract information from the result to be sent to the repository.

Replace the paragraph at page 15, lines 19-27 of the specification with:

A5
Often application INI files contain information that is required to determine how that application is installed. Use the INI option to extract information from an application INI file. Those skilled in the art will note that an INI file is an initialization file in Windows which provides persistent storage of configuration data. Many applications employ INI files to store information that must persist. Those skilled in the art of Windows WINDOWS Operating System programming understand the format and use of INI files.

Replace the heading at page 17, line 18 with:

A6
reg_exe (Windows WINDOWS NT/2000/98/95 Operating System Versions)